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NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

7590 06/25/2004

HUGH R KRESS
WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.
910 TRAVIS SUITE 2400
HOUSTON, TX 77002

EXAMINER

THOMSON, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2123

DATE MAILED: 06/25/2004

24

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/233,860	01/20/1999	SCOTT H. HUTCHINSON	BVEW:154	6817

TITLE OF INVENTION: SOFTWARE-IMPLEMENTED METHOD FOR IDENTIFYING NODES ON A NETWORK

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$0	\$665	09/27/2004

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status.
See 37 CFR 1.27.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail

Mail Stop ISSUE FEE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
or Fax (703) 746-4000

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legibly mark-up with any corrections or use Block 1)

7590 06/25/2004

HUGH R KRESS
WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.
910 TRAVIS SUITE 2400
HOUSTON, TX 77002

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)

(Signature)

(Date)

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nonprovisional	YES	\$665	\$0	\$665	09/27/2004

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
THOMSON, WILLIAM D	2123	709-224000

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
 "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.

2. For printing on the patent front page, list (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent); individual corporation or other private group entity government

4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:

4b. Payment of Fee(s):

- Issue Fee
 Publication Fee
 Advance Order - # of Copies _____

- A check in the amount of the fee(s) is enclosed.
 Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
 The Director is hereby authorized by charge the required fee(s), or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

Director for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if any) or to re-apply any previously paid issue fee to the application identified above.

(Authorized Signature)	(Date)
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NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE(S)



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7590	06/25/2004		EXAMINER	
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			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2123	24
DATE MAILED: 06/25/2004				

Determination of Patent Term Extension under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed after June 7, 1995 but prior to May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Extension is 872 day(s). Any patent to issue from the above-identified application will include an indication of the 872 day extension on the front page.

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Extension is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703) 305-1383. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/233,860	HUTCHINSON ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
William D. Thomson		2123	

-- *The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--*

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 6/9/2004.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-8,10-13,15,16 and 18-24.
3. The drawings filed on 20 January 1999 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None
 of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

A handwritten signature and initials are written over a drawing of an envelope. The signature includes the letters 'CEN' and 'GAR' with a checkmark. Below the signature, the initials 'W.L.' are written above the date '2/23/04'. To the right of the date is the word 'GAR'.

NOTICE of ALLOWANCE

1. In deference to the Board's legal determination and findings of fact that: 1) claims 11 and 12 are not indefinite under either 35 U.S.C. 112 2nd or 4th and 2) that the teachings of the prior art are not functionally equivalent, not capable of performing the recited functional limitations and are not anticipatory of the same limitations as recited within the Applicant's claims and 3) that these references do not meet the standard of the preponderance of evidence test; the pending claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15, 16, and 18-24 are allowed.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15, 16, and 18-24 are allowed in deference to the rational and findings as provided by the reversal of the primary examiner by the Board of Patent Appeals. The Board rendered the legal determination and finding of fact that the prior art which was positively asserted against the instant applicant with detailed analysis by the examiner did not meet the legal standard for proving or providing a solid basis for a determination of *anticipation* and *inferentially the prior art as evidence does not meet the standard of a preponderance of evidence test and moreover does not teach the equivalent or same invention as recited in claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15, 16, and 18-24*.

Specifically, the prior art of Barroux (850) and de la Salle (420), were individually asserted under specific sections of 35 U.S.C. 102. The legal determination and findings

of fact by the Board is that the prior art does not teach "containing node-identification information for the client node that includes (ii) a current network interface card value for the node, referred to as a NIC address value, and (ii) a former NIC address value". Therefore it is a factual finding of the Board that neither unique network IDs nor MAC addresses specific to client nodes that are stored in a database as historical data with time stamps to track changes in the nodes (including client nodes) within a network over time as taught in the prior art teachings constitutes the same or equivalent teaching as storing a current NIC address and a former NIC address in the node as recited in the claims, see claim 13 for example. Therefore the prior art rejections have been overcome by the Board's decision. Moreover, a legal determination was made by the Board, that the Examiner's detailed analysis of the claim language did not provide evidence as to why one of ordinary skill level would not be able to understand the claim language as recited in claims 11 and 12. Therefore claims 11 and 12 are not indefinite and the prior rejections are overcome based upon the Board's decision.

3. In deference to the Board of Patent Appeal's legal determinations and findings of fact that more likely than not the limitations as recited in claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-13, 15, 16, and 18-24 are not functionally equivalent to those taught in the prior art, that the prior art is not capable of performing the recited functional limitations and that the prior art is not anticipatory of the claimed invention. In the instant case, taking into consideration the nature of this art, the skill level required and affording proper deference to the legal determinations and findings of fact by the Board, one would need some impetus and

direction to modify the individual teachings to result in the device, method or program-product as recited in the claims; no such motivation was found, in view of the findings of the Board. It would be counter intuitive to provide motivation to render the claimed invention obvious in view of the Board's legal determinations and findings of fact regarding the viability of the prior art teachings.

CONCLUSION

4. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William Thomson whose telephone number is (703) 305-0022. The examiner can be usually reached between 9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday. Voice mail is checked throughout the day. Please leave a detailed message including the serial number.

Facsimile number is as follows:

Official: 703-872-9306

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Kevin Teska, can be reached on 704-305-9704.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

William D. Thomson



Primary Examiner

A.U. 2123

June 22, 2004